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The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ

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Jesus Lives

936.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST --- I Cor. 15:9-26*

PAUL in this reading clearly affirms 12 things: Deals with all their questions & "Ifs."

INT.

1. He was made an Apostle to serve a crucified, buried, BUT RISEN Lord Jesus Christ.
2. All genuine Christians, along with Paul, believe in a resurrected Savior.
3. Some Corinthians were denying the resurrection of Christ from the dead.
4. A point of Logic: If there is NO resurrection from the dead for anyone; then Christ could not be alive--He is still dead. *If not raised - then* The Jews succeeded in stopping His work.
5. Preaching of the Apostles and early Christians is empty, hollow, vain and useless. A fantasy and a fraud, if not raised.
6. The FAITH of all Christians was futile and valueless..... if Christ was not raised from the dead.
7. This would make the preachers and teachers of the RESURRECTION liars, false teachers and deceivers of the worst order. IF.....
8. All prior sinners were yet in their sins--just thought they had been forgiven. Deceived and mislead. IF....
9. All of the Believers, who were now dead, were lost, not saved as they had believed, if Christ was not raised from the dead.
10. If there is no resurrection--then these Christians were the most MISERABLE CREATURES of earth. Had based their hope on a meaningless fable; (if Christ were not risen.)
11. BUT---Christ IS RISEN from the dead! Raised by the POWER OF GOD, His Father. He IS a resurrected Lord.
12. CONCLUSION: The Christian THEN and NOW is the happiest person alive!
Has greatest comfort possible. *Greatest hope.*
Has more peace of mind than any living person.
Has more to look forward to in THIS life and the LIFE TO COME than anyone else on earth.
Enjoys the greatest security ever given to man.

OBSERVATION: Everything a Christian IS, HAS BEEN or HOPES TO BE hinges on the RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.

I. IN SPITE OF THE GREAT WEIGHT OF INSURMOUNTABLE EVIDENCE, THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST HAS NOT GONE UNCHALLENGED.

Example:

A. RENAN, French infidel, in his book THE LIFE OF JESUS admits 8 vital facts about Jesus and His life on earth.

1. Jesus lived. Was a real person on earth as described in N.T.
2. Jesus lived at the TIME the New Testament said He did.
3. Jesus lived at the PLACE ascribed to Him in the Bible.
4. He was CRUCIFIED by the Romans, at instigation of the Jews.
5. He was BURIED by a Jewish rich man, Joseph of Arimathea.
6. The tomb was SEALED by the Roman Govt. Made very sure.
7. The tomb was GUARDED by Roman guards-to prevent tampering.
8. The body of Jesus was MISSING on the 1st day of the week.

BUT....B. RENAN, denied the CARDINAL DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIANITY: That Jesus was resurrected from the grave by the power of God. He challenged Romans 6:1-6.*

II. CHRISTIANS DO NOT FEAR IN THE LEAST TO ENTER INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE MERITS OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. Has stood & will stand. Isa. 1:18. I Thess. 5:21. I Pet. 3:15.

A. ONE GRAND FACT REMAINS: Truth is truth! Facts are facts!

1. If Christ ~~were~~ ^{WAS} NOT raised from the dead, then no amount of preaching, teaching, talking or persuading could make it so. If WHOLE WORLD believed it SO, (and it did not happen)-- it still would not be so!

2. If CHRIST ^{WAS} raised from the dead, then the WHOLE WORLD disbelieving it, could not keep it from being SO.

& doctrine of the Resurrection of Christ would stand up well in any Court in a world, where true justice is its goal!

III. SURVEY OF THE PROOFS FOR THE RESURRECTION WILL SETTLE THE MATTER FOR ANY FAIR-MINDED PERSON.

A. EVIDENCE OF THE "OPEN TOMB". Matt. 27:60. "great stone"

1. Friends and enemies of Jesus admit tomb was open & empty.
2. Question: Who rolled away that stone?

- a. Romans! No. Set the watch to keep it occupied.
 - b. Jewish rulers! No. Demanded the watch to seal it.
 - c. Disciples! No. Women had spices ready to embalm the body after the Sabbath day. Lk. 23:56.
- THEN WHO DID? Bible: Matt. 28:2. Angel & earthquake.

B. EVIDENCE OF THE "EMPTY GRAVE". John 20:2. All agreed.

1. Question: Who removed the body of Jesus from the tomb?

- a. Roman guards! Why? To what purpose? Charged to keep! *IN!*
- b. Jews! If so, produce body and settle the issue.
- c. Apostles! Impossible: John 20:9. Why holding spices???

THEN WHO DID? Bible: Luke 24:1-8* Angels did it.

C. EVIDENCE OF THE "DISCARDED CLOTHES." All agreed there.

1. Question: Who folded the grave garments & left them neat? *That?*

- a. Grave robbers: No. Take clothing with body. Costly linen.
- b. Apostles: No. Take the clothing with the body in haste.
- c. Jews: No. Would produce body AND the clothes...settle.

THEN WHO DID? Bible: God did. Romans 6:3-4.* *If He didn't, who did?*

D. EVIDENCE OF "ABOVE 500 WITNESSES" I Cor. 15:1-8.*

1. Question: Could over 500 witnesses be wrong?? Hardly.

- a. Marys looked for gardner to help remove the stone. J.20:15.
- b. Apostles refused to believe the first report. Mk. 16:11.
- c. John, the Apostle, did not understand the prophecy about the resurrection till he saw the the empty tomb and the folded grave garments.
- d. Can over 500 eye-witnesses be deceived by one who personally taught them for 40 days? Acts 1:3.

(1) If were *deceived*, then Resurrection was the greatest deception OF ALL TIMES.

(2) If were NOT, then the Resurrection is the greatest EVENT in all human history.

INV: PURPOSE OF THE RECORDING OF THE RESURRECTION STORY: That you might BELIEVE in Jesus, as you believe in no other.

That you will COME TO HIM as you would go to no other.
Totally, fully in complete surrender of life & soul.

JOHN EXPRESSED IT THIS WAY IN John 20:30-31.

JESUS invites you to come to Him for the remission of your sins. *Acts 2:38.*

He invites you to come to Him for a hope for the future. *John 11:25-26.*

He invites you to come to Him for the peace of mind you crave in your soul. *Rom. 5:1.*